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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-04 NSC-05 RSC-01 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 AEC-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05

L-01 NSAE-00 PM-03 SAM-01 SCI-02 FRB-01 PA-01 PRS-01

DRC-01 SWF-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 /086 W
---------- 035078
O R 181139Z OCT 74
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7639
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PARIS PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, ENRG, US
SUBJECT: EC TO CONSULT WITH MAJOR OIL COMPANIES IN BRUSSELS

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1. SUMMARY. EC COMMISSION HAS INFORMED US THAT SIMONET IS

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INVITING TWELVE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES TO BRUSSELS ON
OCTOBER 28-30 AND NOVEMBER 4 FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE
ANTICIPATED IMPACT ON SUPPLY AND PRICE OF THE DECISIONS ON OIL
PRICE TAKEN BY OPEC IN VIENNA IN SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR FOR HYDROCARBONS BRONDEL CALLED MISSION
OFFICERS IN ON OCTOBER 17 TO INFORM THE USG OF AN INITIATIVE BEING
TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY. HE SAID THAT ACTING ON A REQUEST BY THE
ENERGY COMMITTEE, COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET WAS
SENDING LETTERS OF INVITATION TO TWELVE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES
(EXXON, TEXACO, MOBIL, GULF, STANDARD OF CALIFORNIA, BP, SHELL,
ENI, PETROFINA, VEBA/GELSENBERG, CFP AND ELF) TO MEET IN
BRUSSELS ON OCTOBER 28, 29, 30 AND NOVEMBER 4. THE DISCUSSIONS
ARE TO BE LIMITED TO AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLICATIONS
FOR OIL PRICE AND SUPPLY OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY OPEC IN
VIENNA IN SEPTEMBER TO INCREASE THE TAX PAID BY THE COMPANIES
TO THE PRODUCER COUNTRIES AND IN THE FUTURE TO LING THE PRICE
OF OIL TO THE RISE IN THE PRICE OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.
BRONDEL SAID HE WANTED TO INFORM US OF THIS INITIATIVE BECAUSE,
EVEN THOUGH SIMONET HAS MET WITH ALL THE MAJOR COMPANIES
INDIVIDUALLY AND INFORMALLY, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THERE HAS
BEEN WHAT BRONDEL CALLED "OFFICIAL" CONTACT.

3. THE COMPANIES WILL MEET WITH THE COMMISSION INDIVIDUALLY,
WITH SOME OF THE MEETINGS CHAIRED BY SIMONET AND OTHERS BY
EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY, SPAAK. ALTHOUGH THE FACT
THAT THE MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE WILL NOT BE SECRET, THE MATERIAL
COLLECTED WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL. BRONDEL SAID THE ENERGY
COMMITTEE AS SUCH WILL NOT PARTICIPATE. THE NINE MEMBER
COUNTRIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND IF THEY WANT TO BUT CERTAIN
COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THEY PREFER THE COMMISSION TO
ACT FOR THEM.

4. BRONDEL WENT TO CONSIDERABLE PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE
COMMISSION'S MEETING WITH THE COMPANIES SHOULD IN NO WAY BE
THOUGHT TO BE IN COMPETITION WITH OR A DUPLICATION OF THE
CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE COMPANIES AND THE ECG. THE SCOPE
OF THE EC MEETINGS IN THE CASE AT HAND WAS VERY MUCH MORE
RESTRICTED THAN THE CONSULTATIONS SCHEDULED IN THE ECG
CONTEXT. IN GENERAL TERMS ALSO, BRONDEL STRESSED THAT THE
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EC HAD NO INTEREST WHATEVER IN DUPLICATING ANY ACTIVITY OF
THE ECG OR THE NEW AGENCY. HE DESCRIBED THE ROLE OF THE TWO
GROUPS AS COMPLEMENTARY, NOT COMPETITIVE.

5. BRONDEL WAS A BIT DEFENSIVE THROUGHOUT HIS PRESENTATION.
HE SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE THE US MIGHT BE SENSITIVE TO THE EC
TAKING THIS INDEPENDENT INITIATIVE
IN ENERGY AND HE EMPHASIZED ITS

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INFORMATION-GATHERING NATURE. THE COMMISSION MAY ALSO BE
CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICAN COMPANIES' REACTIONS TO THIS INITIATIVE.
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TAGS: ENRG, US, EEC
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LONDON LUXEMBOURG OSLO
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